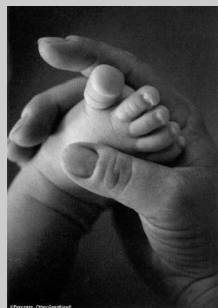


July 4, 2008



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FIRST STEPS
KENTUCKY'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

TOTS Update



Technology-assisted Observation and Teaming Support system

We are getting closer to our conversion to TOTS and this means we're getting down to nitty-gritty details. The design team is working diligently on screen designs and behind-the-scenes functionality. Child records in TOTS will be associated with the District they reside in. Districts have been assigned a two character identifier below:

Barren River	→	BR	Kentucky River	→	KR
Big Sandy	→	BS	KIPDA	→	KI
Bluegrass	→	BG	Lake		
Buffalo Trace	→	BT	Cumberland	→	LC
Cumberland			Lincoln Trail	→	LT
Valley	→	CV	Northern		
FIVCO	→	FC	Kentucky	→	NK
Gateway	→	GW	Pennyrile	→	PR
Green River	→	GR	Purchase	→	PU

POE Managers within a District will have access to all child records in the District. Service coordinators and all providers will have access to those children assigned to their caseload.

CBIS Billing Reminder

Providers and other stakeholders who receive e-mail updates and alerts from CBIS are probably aware that CBIS is currently short-staffed. CBIS is working very hard to make sure that all provider claims submitted by the cut off date are processed in the most efficient manner possible. Providers can take some steps to help CBIS process their claims timely and correctly.

1. **Submit your claims in a timely manner**

Even when CBIS was fully staff, it was difficult to process the flood of claims submitted on the cut off date in time to get the claims processed in the week between cut off and payment. It would be very, very helpful – particularly now with fewer staff available to process claims – if providers would avoid waiting until the very last minute to send in their claims.

2. **Follow the electronic layout specifications precisely**

I know you ... you're early childhood folks. You like things pretty and organized and, well, family/user-friendly. Unfortunately, while that trait suits you all very well for your chosen career, it tends to mess up your electronic claims processing. It is important to understand that when you try to make your spreadsheet pretty or easier to read by adding dollar signs, reformatting columns as "currency" or "accounting", putting dashes or periods in the CBIS ID (rather than numbers only), or putting in pretty headers or blank lines, you cause your CBIS data entry staff to have a stroke. They don't care how pretty it is. They care that it's in the format that they need it in. If it's not, they have to jump through a number of hoops to reformat your file ... taking up precious time that would be better spent processing the claims of the providers behind you in line. If you think you might be guilty of trying to win the "prettiest claim" contest, please take a few moments to review the electronic layout specifications at the following link:

<http://cbis.louisville.edu/electronbill.htm/electronicbilling2.htm>

Battelle Developmental Inventory Training Opportunity

Friday, August 15th from 9-3 at the Berea RTC I will be conducting a training on the Battelle Developmental Inventory, 2nd edition. This is Day 1 of the 2 day training. Day 2 is a 3 hour training to be arranged/scheduled at a later date but within 3-4 weeks of Day 1. We will talk about and plan for this training date and homework requirements for Day 2 at the Day 1 training. We are limiting the registration to 25 people. For more information please contact Dannie Sargent by email: Dannie.Sargent@berea.kyschools.us

July is Father Involvement Month

"When fathers play a responsible and nurturing role in their children's lives, the benefits are profound and

longlasting. In our effort to encourage fathers to involve themselves deeply in the lives of their children, child care

providers can help lead the way." —Assistant Secretary Wade Horn, Ph.D. Administration for Children and Families

Fatherhood Resources are available at: <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov>



District Determinations

District Determinations were e-mailed and mailed to POE Administrators and Managers on Monday, June 30th. It is very important that Districts take ownership of these Determinations. They are reflective of the performance of the District, including PSCs, First Steps providers, Local Education Agencies as well as other local stakeholders, and not merely the performance of the POE. POE Management, as the identified administrative structure for the First Steps program at the local level, will take responsibility for coordinating responses to the District Determinations in the form of Performance Enhancement Plans. Regional TA Teams will assist POE Managers with this activity. Local First Steps stakeholders are strongly encouraged to become active participants in the Performance Enhancement Planning process.

States are required to publicly post District performance data, as well as other program data, annually. District performance data will be posted on the First Steps website in the next couple of weeks. States are not required to publicly post District Determinations and Kentucky has elected not to do so again this year. POE Managers will share the District Determinations locally. Interested stakeholders should contact their POE Manager directly.

Happy Fourth of July!



Prevent Sunburn

Exposure to UV Rays Can Be Dangerous

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 27, 2008) – Warm temperatures and extra hours of sunlight entice many to spend more time outdoors in the summer, dramatically increasing exposure to harmful rays that can cause skin damage and are linked to skin cancer.

This summer, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services wants all Kentuckians to protect themselves and their loved ones from harmful sun exposure, particularly young children.

“The sun can be extremely damaging to one’s health, resulting in painful burns, sun damage and in some cases, skin cancer,” said William Hacker, M.D., commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health. “It’s extremely important to protect oneself and even more important for parents to properly supervise their children and prevent them from experiencing painful and sometimes life-threatening burns.”

According to DPH, some sunlight - about 15 minutes twice a week - is necessary for people to make and use vitamin D. However, exposure in excess of this can be dangerous.

Records provided by the state Office of Health Policy show that 27 Kentuckians were hospitalized with severe sunburns in 2007, some of whom suffered dangerous second- and third-degree burns. Of those, six patients were children ranging in age from younger than 1 to 12 years old.

Overexposure to sunlight can lead to extreme pain and skin injury, particularly for young children. The Cabinet’s summer safety campaign stresses the importance of adults supervising and taking adequate precautions on behalf of children to protect them from serious sunburn.

“This is not only a public health issue, it’s also an issue of our ability and willingness to protect and ensure the safety and welfare of our children,” Hacker said.

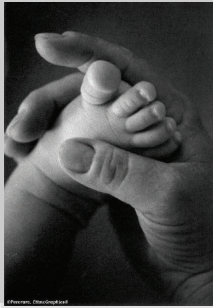
In addition to immediate pain, overexposure to sunlight, sun damage and burns can heighten the risk for developing skin cancer. According to the Kentucky Cancer Registry, the incidence rate of invasive skin cancer in Kentucky was nearly 22 out of every 100,000 people from 2001 to 2005. The mortality rate for the same period was 4.39 per 100,000 people.

Some tips for avoiding sunburn or side effects linked to sun exposure are:

- Avoid sunbathing.
- Avoid tanning parlors.
- Wear a hat that shields your face from the sun.
- Limit your sun exposure. The sun is hottest and strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor of 15 or greater.
- Wear sunglasses that are UV rated.
- Choose cosmetics, moisturizing creams and lotions that contain sunscreen.
- Protect your lips with products that have a sun protection factor of 15 or greater.



July 11, 2008



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FIRST STEPS
KENTUCKY'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

TOTS Update

As we move toward the transition from CBIS to TOTS, we are working to streamline current processes in order to reduce the workload at CBIS and ease the transition to a web-based data management system. One significant change will take place in the next week or two when CBIS makes available the ability to enter all CBIS forms and billing online.

Plans to implement online forms submission and billing have been in place for some time, and although the timing isn't exactly as we would have liked—being so close to the training and implementation of TOTS, nonetheless the change is a welcome one.

Service coordinators should not be unfamiliar with online CBIS form submission as they have been using the electronic referral report for some time. This change will simply make the remaining CBIS forms available online and will offer all providers the ability to submit claims online.

CBIS will be providing additional information about this exciting new capability soon.



Technology-assisted Observation and Teaming Support system

Upcoming Training

- 07/18/08 Hawaii Early Learning Profile (ID 1013707), Lexington
- 07/23/08 Hawaii Early Learning Profile (ID 1013703), Louisville
- 07/25/08 Hawaii Early Learning Profile (ID 1013708), Prestonsburg
- 07/25/08 AEPS (ID 1013634), Owensboro
- 07/30/08 AEPS (ID 1013702), Lexington
- 08/21/08 Carolina Curriculum (ID 1013710), Bowling Green
- 08/22/08 Carolina Curriculum (ID 1013705), Louisville
- 08/29/08 Carolina Curriculum (ID 1013706), Lexington

Register on TRAIN (<https://ky.train.org>)

New ZERO TO THREE Fact Sheet on SCHIP

Source: ZERO TO THREE – July 7, 2008

ZERO TO THREE has published a new fact sheet on the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which expired on September 30, 2007. Last year, after two attempts by Congress to enact legislation to renew the program and two Presidential vetoes, a short-term extension was put in place to continue funding through March 31, 2009. The new SCHIP fact sheet is available at:

http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/SCHIP_Brief.pdf?docID=5661.



Inclusive Tourism Helps Families of Children with Disabilities

For families of children with disabilities, taking a summer trip involves a great deal of planning and preparation. Fortunately, families do not have to do so in an information vacuum. Thanks to pioneers such as Dr. Scott Rains, inclusive tourism is a field that is fast emerging. This month's issue of the Family Center on Technology and Disability's News and Notes examines inclusive tourism and its impact on families of children with disabilities.

For the full story, visit
<http://www.fctd.info/resources/newsletters/index.php>



Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map

Source: Illinois Early Learning Council – July 7, 2008

At the request of the Illinois Early Learning Council, the University of Illinois (in collaboration with Chicago Metropolis 2020, a business advocacy group) has created an interactive, web-based tool called the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM). IECAM combines community demographic information (on income levels, population distribution, Latino population, and parental employment) with data on early care and education from state agencies (birth to 5), Head Start, and the private sector. The site also includes a page of national resources that compare states on various indicators.

IECAM is designed to be used by state and local agencies, advocates, and proposal writers to inform planning for resource allocation. IECAM is available at <http://iecam.crc.uiuc.edu/>. For more information contact Dawn Thomas at dthomas3@uiuc.edu.



Father Involvement Benefits Infants' Cognitive Development

Source: Child Trends – July 11, 2008

A new Child Trends study entitled *Involvement among Resident Father and Links to Infant Cognitive Outcomes* by Jacinta Bronte-Tinkew, Jennifer Carrano, Allison Horowitz and Akemi Kinukawa, finds that fathers' involvement in a variety of activities with their infant children is positively associated with infant cognitive development. The study also shows that benefits are greater for male infants and for infants with a disability. The study is based on data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Birth Cohort, a nationally representative survey of children born in 2001. For more information go to:

<http://jfi.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/0192513X08318145v1>

**REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2008
MARGE ALLEN SPIRIT AWARD AND
JIM HENSON SERVICE AWARD**

The Interagency Coordinating Council of Kentucky's Early Intervention System invites you to submit nominations for their annual awards presentation to take place at the Kentucky Infant Toddler Institute August 11-13, 2008.

MARGE ALLEN SPIRIT AWARD

"Helping to promote the statewide dream of Early Intervention in Kentucky"

Nomination Criteria:

The nominee must have made a positive impact on the lives of Kentucky's infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The nominee's experience with early intervention in Kentucky may have been: past or current, personal, professional, or parent.

The nominee must be an individual.

JIM HENSON SERVICE AWARD

"To recognize a local or regional positive impact by an individual to insure the reality of Early Intervention in Kentucky"

Nomination Criteria:

The nominee must have made a positive impact on the lives of Kentucky's infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The nominee's experience with early intervention in Kentucky may have been: past or current, personal, professional, or parent.

The nominee must be an individual.

ICC members and former ICC member are not eligible for the Jim Henson Service Award.

Nomination Instructions:

Use the attached ICC Award Nomination form, and mail, email or fax the nomination on or before July 15, 2008 to Lynne Flynn. When using email to nominate, please attach the Award Nomination form as a Word® document. You may email Ms. Flynn for an electronic version of the form, if needed.

Lynne Flynn, ICC Chairperson
Cabinet for Health and Family Services/Dept. for Medicaid Services
275 East Main Street, 6WA
Frankfort, KY 40621
Lynne.Flynn@ky.gov
Fax: 502-564-0509

For more information on the Kentucky Infant Toddler Institute, visit:

<http://www.ihdi.uky.edu/infanttoddler/>

Interagency Coordinating Council-Kentucky's Early Intervention System
Award Application Form
2008

_____ Marge Allen Spirit OR _____ Jim Henson

Please answer the following questions regarding the person you are nominating. Be brief and concise, realizing that reviewers may not be familiar with your nominee. Use only the space allotted for each answer. Extra attachments will be not be considered.

Nominee's Full Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip: _____

Phone: Work: _____ Home: _____

Cell: _____ Fax: _____

(need at least one of these numbers)

Please check one. Nominee is a:

_____ Service Coordinator _____ Parent _____ Therapist
_____ Early Interventionist _____ Early Intervention Administrator
_____ Other: _____

Describe the type and length of activities, services and/or experiences the nominee has had with children birth to three with disabilities and their families.